

## **County Councillor Report Lighthorne Parish Council Meeting 14th March 2023**

### **New Fund Launched to give Warwickshire Economy a £40m Boost**

Businesses looking to grow in, or relocate to, Warwickshire now have access to £40m of financial support as the latest pillar of a major economy-boosting initiative goes live. The Property and Infrastructure Fund is the third and final strand of the Warwickshire Recovery Fund. This major £100 initiative was launched to provide access to debt finance and safeguard business in, or those expanding to, Warwickshire from any of the adverse economic effects caused by the pandemic.

### **Council Tax / Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner/Parish Councils**

The total Band D Council Tax will be as follows: 2022/23 2023/24

Stratford-on-Avon District Council 2022/2023 £154.12

2023/2024 £159.12. Increase 3.24%

Warwickshire County Council 2022/2023 £1,590.93

2023/2024 £1,653.57 Increase 3.94%

Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner 2022/2023 £262.71

2023/2024 £276.71 Increase 5.33%

Town and Parish Councils (average) 2022/2023 £66.08

2023/2024 £69.26 Increase 4.81%

### **Voter ID.**

legislation has changed in that everyone wishing to vote at polling stations from 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023, must show an accepted form of photo ID such as a passport, photo driving licence or bus pass (the full list of documents is on the SDC website).

On 16<sup>th</sup> January, the Government portal went live so that anyone without photo ID could apply for a Voter Authority Certificate. People wishing to vote on 4<sup>th</sup> May have until 5pm on 25<sup>th</sup> April to apply for one of these Certificates whether on-line, by paper application or in person at the SDC offices. Those electors that have photo ID or a postal vote, do not need to apply.

Stratford District Council have commenced a publicity campaign to get the message across to a wide range of people via different media and we will continue with this until 25<sup>th</sup> April. The two initiatives with the greatest coverage are:

1. A leaflet to go out with every Council Tax bill
2. An e-mail to every elector where SDC have an e-mail address (approx. 30,000 electors)
3. See attached a copy of the Voter ID FAQ for your information.

## **Household Support Scheme**

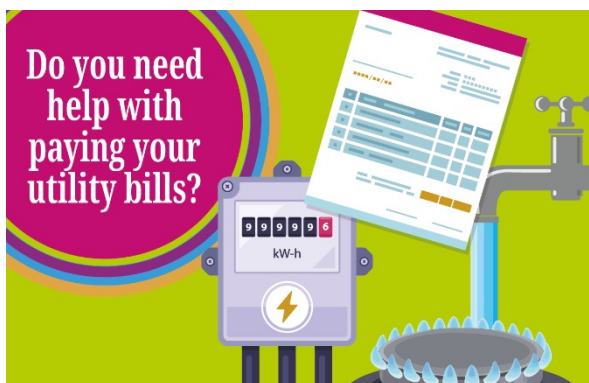
The Government has recently announced details of the Household Support Scheme for 2023-24. Warwickshire will receive £6.9m.

A county wide utilities voucher campaign was launched on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Short-term financial assistance in the form of a one-off voucher payment will be available to help those who are struggling to afford energy and water bills. This will supplement ongoing emergency support from the Local Welfare Scheme for residents in financial crisis. All applications for the payment must be made by 24 March 2023. Anyone entitled to benefits and eligible for free school meals have already received this support. For more information: [www.warwickshire.gov.uk](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk)

## **Residents struggling to pay utility bills**

Warwickshire residents financially struggling to pay their utility bills can look to the County Council for support.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3994/help-for-warwickshire-residents-struggling-to-pay-utility-bills>



## **Warwickshire welcomes extension to £2 bus fare cap**

Warwickshire County Council has welcomed news, released by the Government, that bus fares will continue to be capped at £2 for a further 3 months.

Read more: [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3964/-2-bus-fare-cap-to-be-extended-in-warwickshire](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3964/-2-bus-fare-cap-to-be-extended-in-warwickshire)

Chris Mills

Kineton and Red Horse